

Groot & Sherry's
Souvenir
of
Johannesburg

Stockholm 1899

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GROCOTT & SHERRY'S

Album of



GROCOTT & SHERRY,

JOHANNESBURG, GRAHAMSTOWN & EAST LONDON.

—
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JOHANNESBURG: ITS RISE AND PROGRESS.



JULY Johannesburg may be described as the Chicago of Southern Africa! It is well known that that wonderful city of the United States of America sprung from an arid plain, bordering an Indian prairie, and in two years was the scene of busy industry for a population of many thousand people, attracted by the "earth-hunger," and the acquisition of new homes. Again, when half the city was destroyed by fire, caused by the upsetting of a lamp in a cow-shed, a few years ago, it rose again like a "Phœnix from its ashes," thus manifesting the wonderful recuperative properties of its people, and it is now the third largest city, as well as the wealthiest district in the Union. All this has been produced and brought to pass within ten years from its foundation. In a similar manner has Johannesburg sprung into existence. Ten years ago, the area of Witwaters Rand was a prairie, an open country, wild, and almost without population. Gold certainly had been heard of, but none found; at any rate, in paying quantity. Still, the country was one of possibilities, and in 1887 an exodus to the "Promised Land" began, which culminated in the years following, with what may be designated a rush to seize and secure land, and develope the traces, seams and veins of gold which had been discovered by scientific research. True it is, that earlier than this, in the year 1884, a prospector named Mr. FREDERICK STRUBEN found gold in certain conglomerate reefs, and this was followed by the opening of what was afterwards known as the Main Reef conglomerate, a discovery made by a mason named WALKER, who was working on a neighbouring farm belonging to a Mr. OOSTHUYSEN.

In 1886 prospectors began to examine the country with care, and with ultimate success. Prior to the discovery of the presence of gold and the influx of population, the whole area upon which Johannesburg now stands, and the farm "Witwaters Rand" was offered to a retired British military officer, Major SCOTT, for about £250. In 1886 the Transvaal Government in Pretoria determined to lay out the area as a Township. This was done, and on the 20th September a survey and plan were issued, and building sites were offered for sale. Prices ranged from 5s. to £200 for the plots. People from all parts of the colony, and the world generally, began to flock in to the new El Dorado, and from that period to the present the influx of population has continued. In this manner Johannesburg was called into existence by the all powerful and attractive presence of the precious ore for which men, and women, too, are willing to suffer hardships and privations, living meanwhile on the hope of ultimate success.

But it is not necessary to speak further of the "days of old." The present day is the one people feel most interested in, and the object of the present Album is to demonstrate Pictorially to visitors and friends at a distance, as well as to remind residents of Johannesburg, and the South African Republic generally, of the great results which have, from "small causes sprung." The progress made during the last nine years, since the laying out of streets, and covering the sites with buildings, with the original tin and iron shanties, with an occasional "majestic" store of brick and iron, is something wonderful. One of the earliest of these structures was the Printing and Publishing Office of "The Eastern Star" newspaper, which migrated, "bag and baggage," and all the necessary staff, from Grahamstown in 1887 and, under the auspices of Messrs. THOMAS and GEORGE SHEFFIELD, became the precursor of the English newspaper press in Johannesburg.

But this rude, makeshift style and class of "local habitation" quickly disappeared, or became gradually absorbed into other and more pretentious structures. The gold industry had increased by leaps and bounds, syndicates, well supplied with capital, had entered into the field of speculation. Commerce and trade had increased many thousand-fold, and it became necessary that their representatives should be properly housed. Some of the views presented here, indicate what has been done upon the bare veld of ten years ago.

Johannesburg is no mushroom town. It is founded on a rock which possesses an incomparable quality for stability, and a permanent attraction to the people. This rock is known to geologists as "gold conglomerate," and as long as it exists, so long will Johannesburg exist and prosper.

In order to focus the industry of the new country, syndicates engaged in mining operations began at an early day to meet for mutual information, and subsequently an exchange building was found necessary. In due time a simple but adequate structure was erected, and which, in the course of years, was superseded by the present grand edifice. As the streets were laid out, they became quickly filled with handsome buildings, some of them unique in their style of architecture; many being very imposing in style, and others, attractive and intrinsically valuable. Dwelling-houses sprung up in all directions, villa residences sprinkled the outskirts and suburbs, and gradually the district around Johannesburg grew into beauty.

It is estimated that the authorities have now nearly 40 miles of streets under their care, while the palatial edifices in Commissioner and Pritchard Streets, and elsewhere, testify to the growth of the town, the enterprise of its people, and the wealth of the country.

Johannesburg has grown to be one of the wonders of the world, and has become the cynosure of all the nations. People from every land come to it. It attracts not only those engaged in commerce, but also others in the paths of pleasure. It has its theatres, to which first class companies in the histrionic walks of life minister. London sends out her representatives of the drama and comedy. Music, in all its branches, is to be heard, and the inhabitants have all the advantages of public amusements enjoyed in Europe. The Government has had many difficulties to contend with, in establishing this new addition to its territory, and has ever evinced a desire to push forward its interests and advance its welfare. Handsome streets, many fine hotels, an abundant water supply, with attractive gardens, villa residences, and a climate unrivalled for its purity of atmosphere and health-giving qualities render Johannesburg, with its present European population of over 50,000 souls one of the most remarkable places in the world, when its youth is considered.

The religious life of the "Golden city" has also strong vitality. Besides the Dutch Reformed Church, which is the established Church of the State, almost every denomination has its representative. St. Mary's Cathedral, is the mother Church, of the Anglican Communion, the Bishop of the Diocese of Pretoria having under his jurisdiction a considerable body of clergy, as well as four or five Churches within the confines of Johannesburg, or its suburbs. The Wesleyan body, too, has a flourishing cause, with several churches. The Roman Catholics are also well represented and possess handsome places of worship. Baptist and Congregational churches have been established, and, in fact, every man and woman finds his or her religious needs provided for, by adequate facilities. A large proportion of the population of Johannesburg belongs to the Hebrew faith, and the members of this section of the religious community are noted for their liberality and benevolence in the cause of charity, or other needs.

There are many of the public buildings in Johannesburg which would do credit to the chief cities in Europe or America. Some of these views, with others typical of the street architecture, are presented within this album. The diversity will be found remarkable, and the styles adopted, bold, and often novel. The Government buildings are a grand pile. The hospital is a noble structure, handsome and imposing. The Rand and Wanderers' Club houses are an ornament to their neighbourhood, while other buildings, such as those of the Market, the Exchange, the Railway, the Banks, and many imposing stores and shops, exhibit the wonderful rise and progress of this, the youngest of industrial centres.

Johannesburg enjoys most, if not all, of the modern acquisitions to be found in older cities. Its streets are lighted by electricity, which is as common an agent even in private houses and places of business as gas is elsewhere. It has its railway facilities to the Colony, Natal, and Delagoa Bay, and though its geographical position would appear to render it difficult of access to the outer world, it is, in fact, as easy to reach as any town in South Africa. Tram lines in the principal streets give facility to passenger traffic, and its many cab and cart stands afford abundant vehicular convenience.

The laying out of Johannesburg was done with an eye to the future expansion of the town. Its streets run at right angles, its principal avenues being broad and convenient with comfortable side walks, well-lighted at night. The gold mines at work in the vicinity, with their fires and electric lights, are a wonderful and conspicuous figure in the landscape, while their valuable output tells its own story as to the incalculable riches contained in the earth upon which Johannesburg stands. This output has been growing year by year, and now has reached to between Eleven and Twelve Millions Sterling in value for the past year, represented by about Three Million ounces of gold, won from the conglomerate: and this wealth is increasing.

As a recent writer upon the progress of Johannesburg has aptly said, "Johannesburg, as it is to-day, the centre of the greatest goldfield in the world, is a town which would have been impossible in the early days of the world's great rushes, it is distinctly a production of the nineteenth century."

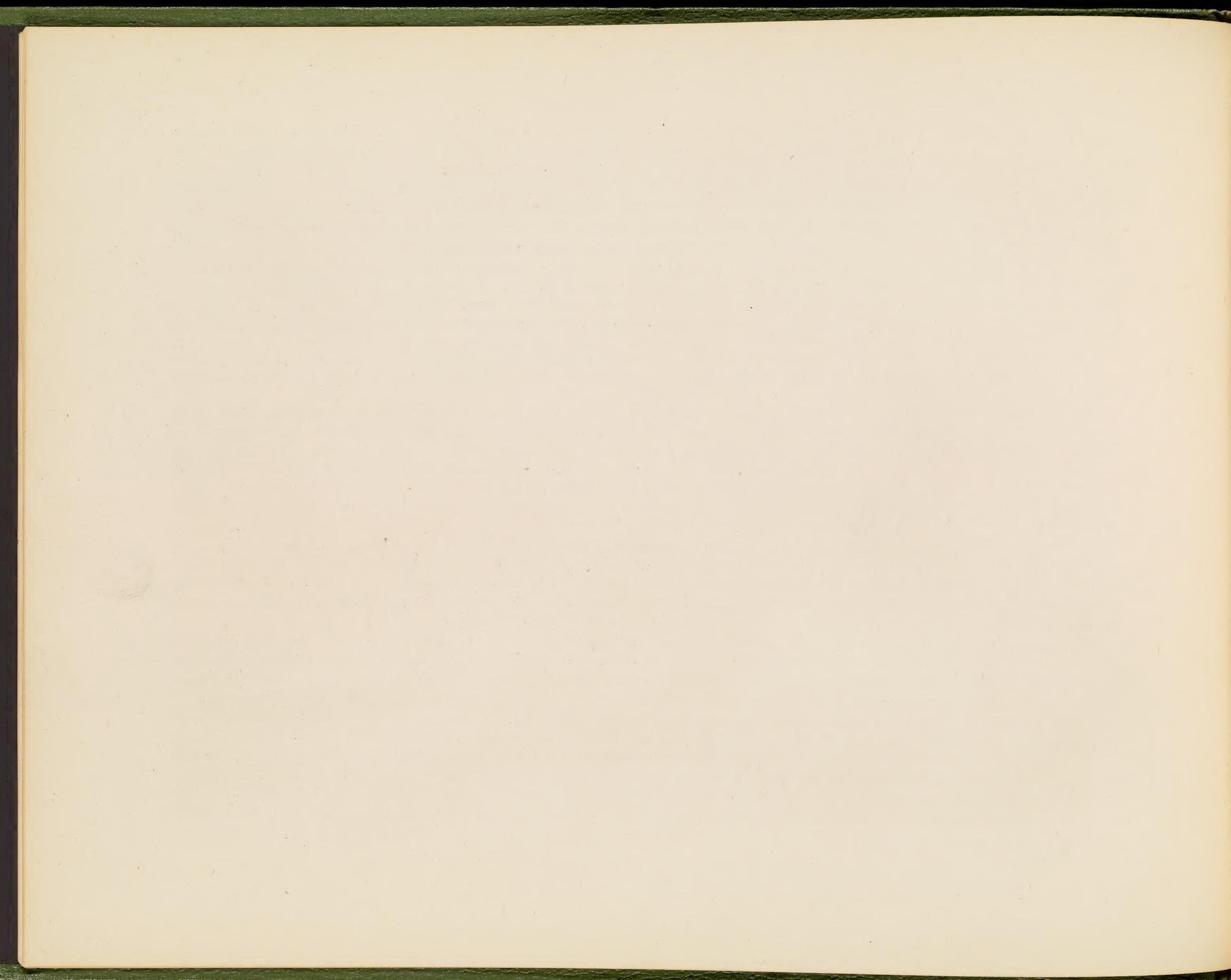




Photo by Simpson Bros.,

Johannesburg.

BIRDS-EYE VIEW OF JOHANNESBURG.



Photo by Simpson Bros.,

Johannesburg.

THE HIGHLANDS, JOHANNESBURG.



Photo by Simpson Bros.,

Johannesburg.

AUCKLAND PARK.



Photo by Simpson Bros.,

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AUCKLAND PARK (WINTER).



Photo by Simpson Bros.,

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PARK RAILWAY STATION.

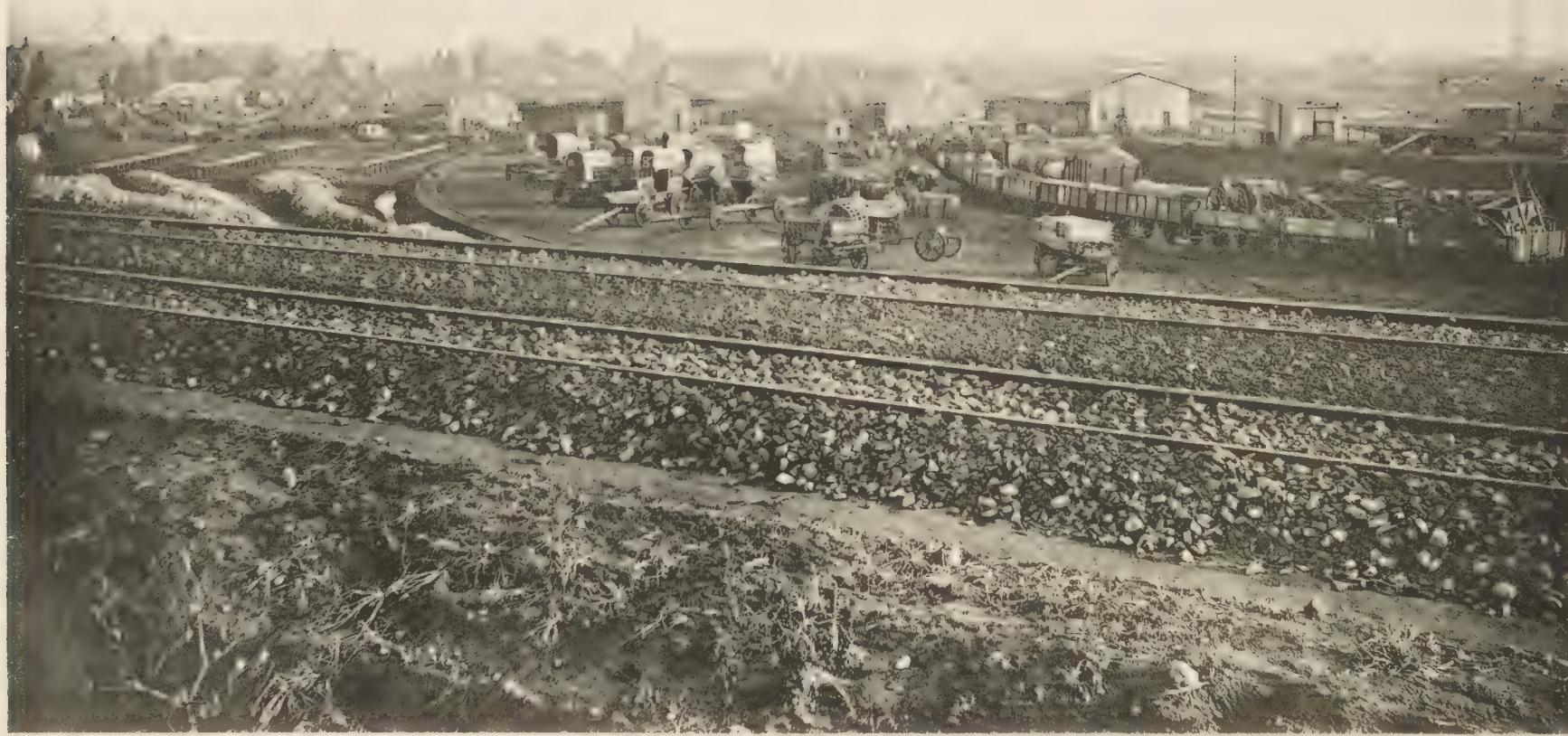


Photo by Simpson Bros.,

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NETHERLANDS RAILWAY GOODS YARD.

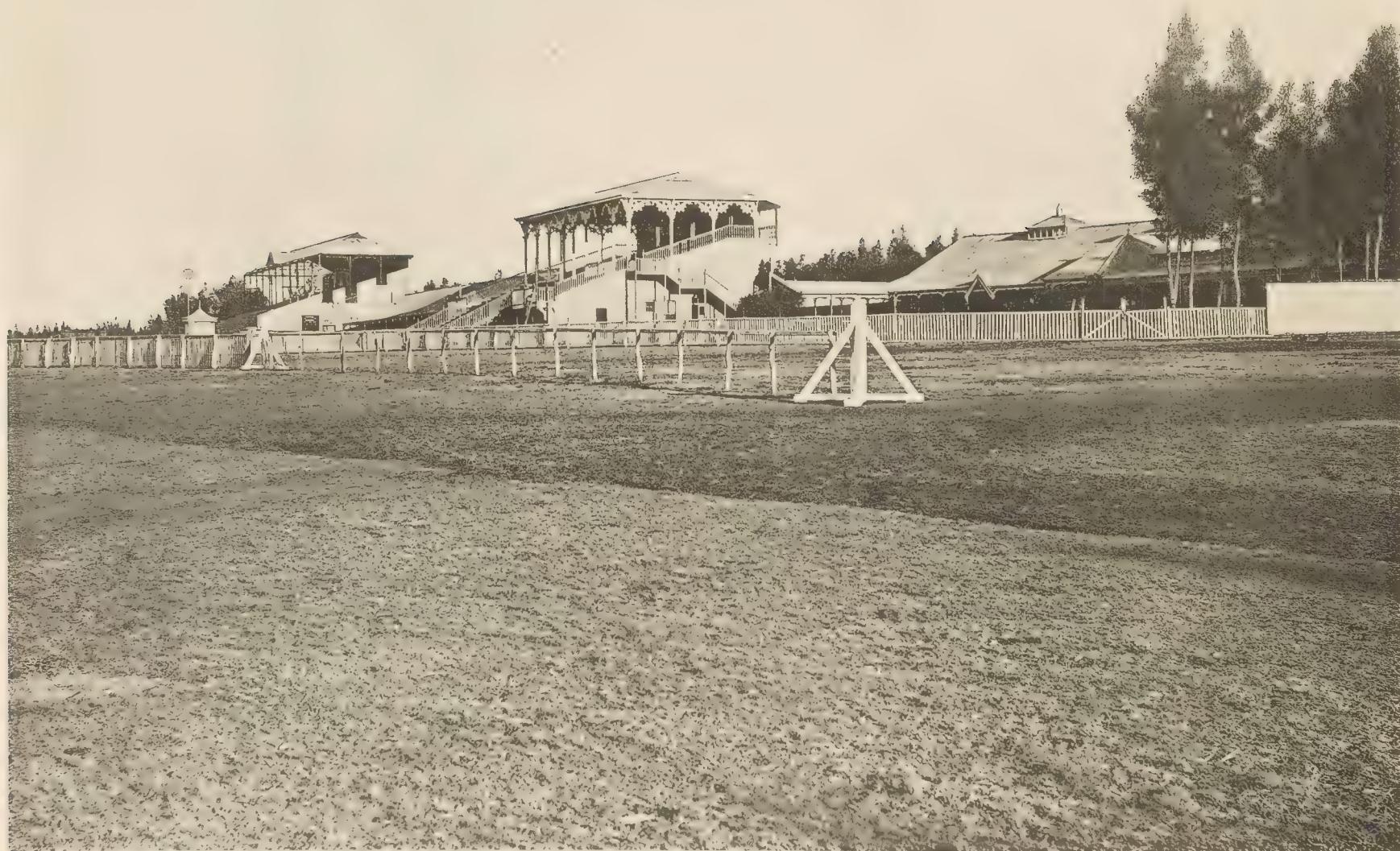


Photo by Simpson Bros.,

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GRAND STAND—RACE COURSE.



Photo by Simpson Bros.,

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THE WANDERERS' PAVILION AND GROUNDS.



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THE JOHANNESBURG HOSPITAL.

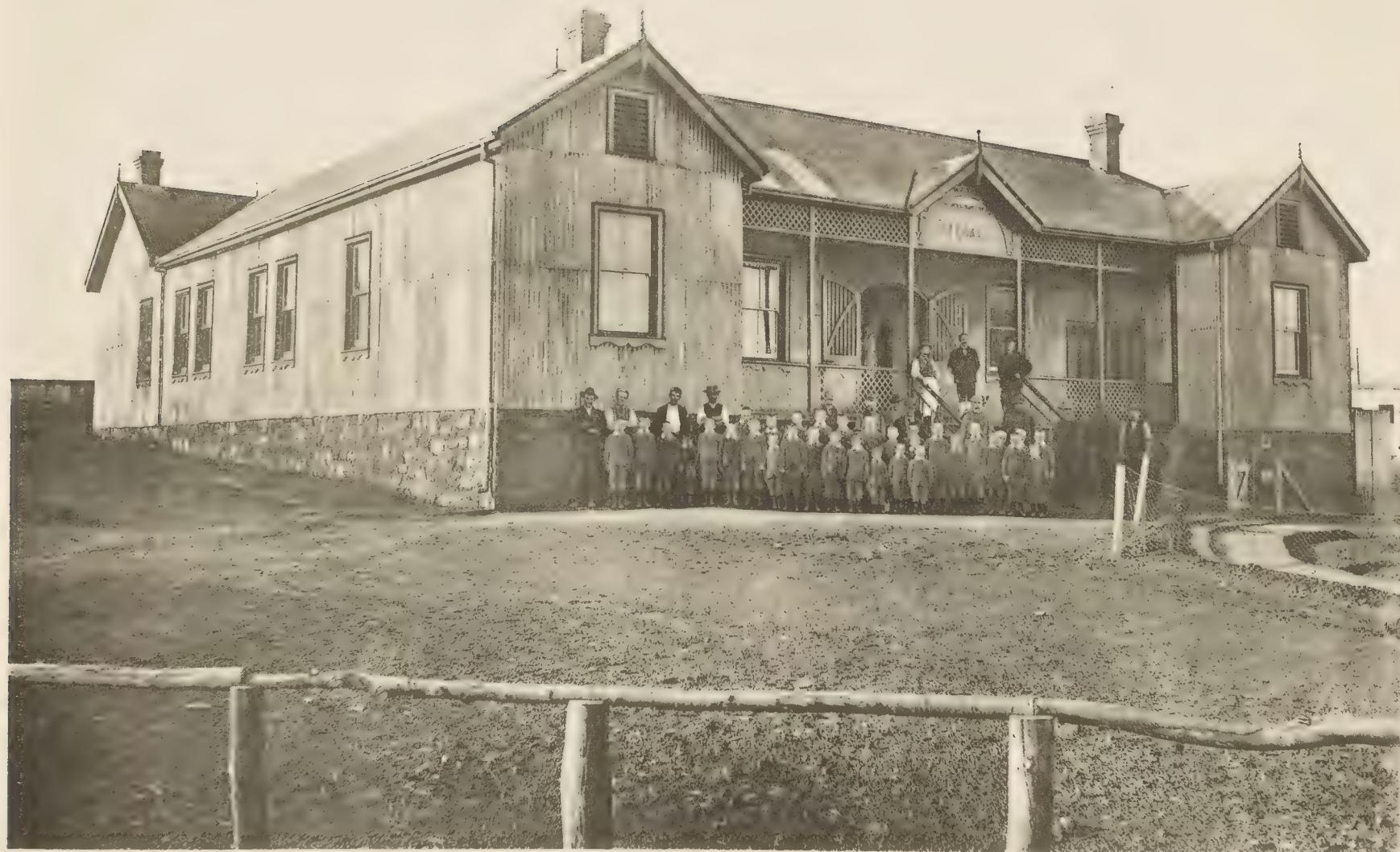


Photo by Simpson Bros.,

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REVD. W. E. KELLY'S PRESENT HELP LEAGUE HOME.



Photo by Simpson Bros.

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JOHANNESBURG HOSPITAL AND GROUNDS.



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SOUTH AFRICAN MUTUAL BUILDINGS—COMMISSIONER AND HARRISON STREETS.



Photo by Simpson Bros.

Johannesburg.

COMMISSIONER STREET—LOOKING EAST.



Photo by Simpson Bros.,

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THE STANDARD BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA—COMMISSIONER STREET.



Photo by Simpson Bros.,

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ECKSTEIN'S BUILDINGS—COMMISSIONER STREET.



Photo by Simpson Bros.,

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THE RAND CLUB—COMMISSIONER STREET.

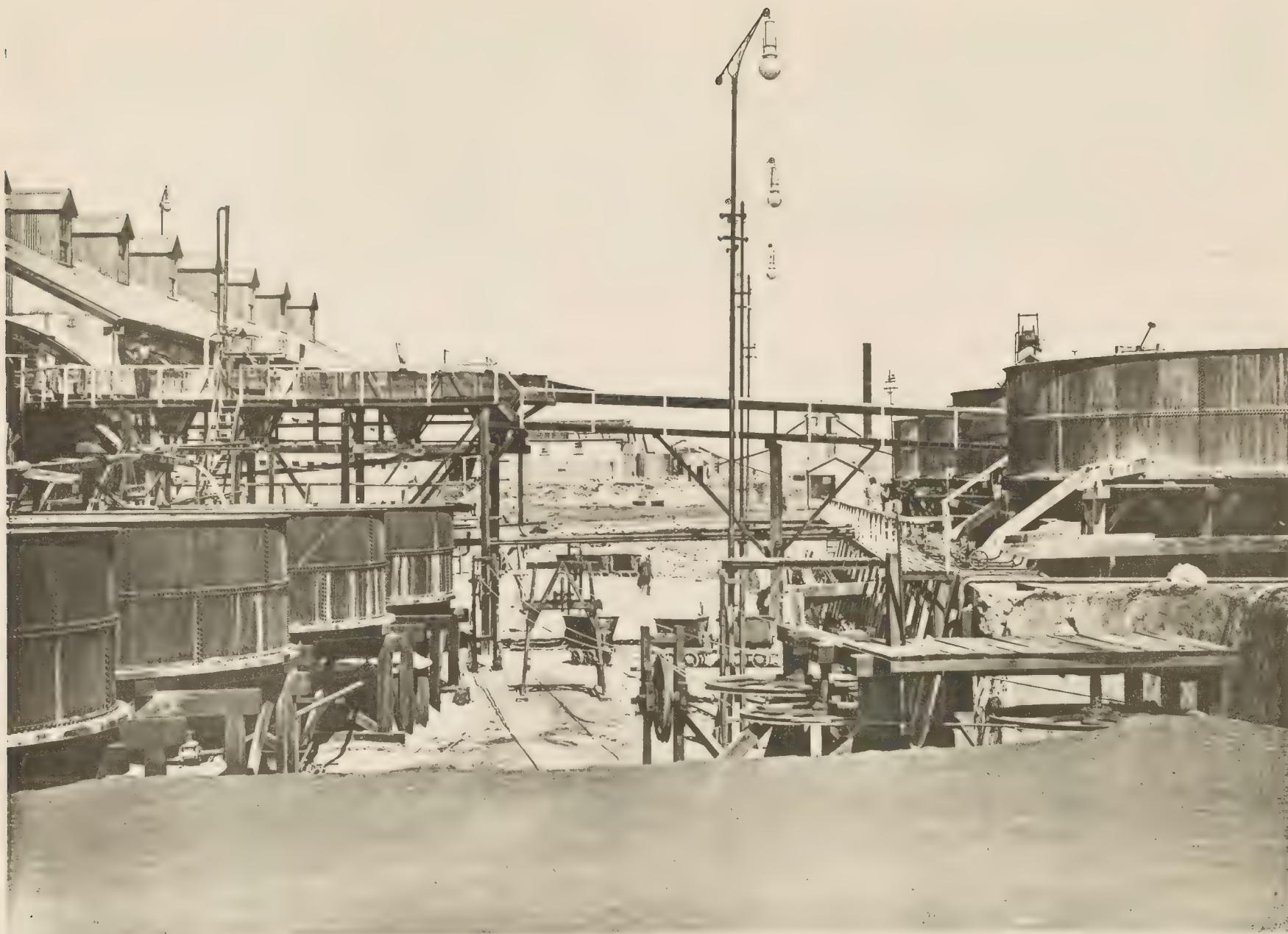


Photo by Simpson Bros.,

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CITY & SUBURBAN CYANIDE WORKS.



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CITY & SUBURBAN GOLD MINING COMPANY'S BATTERY.

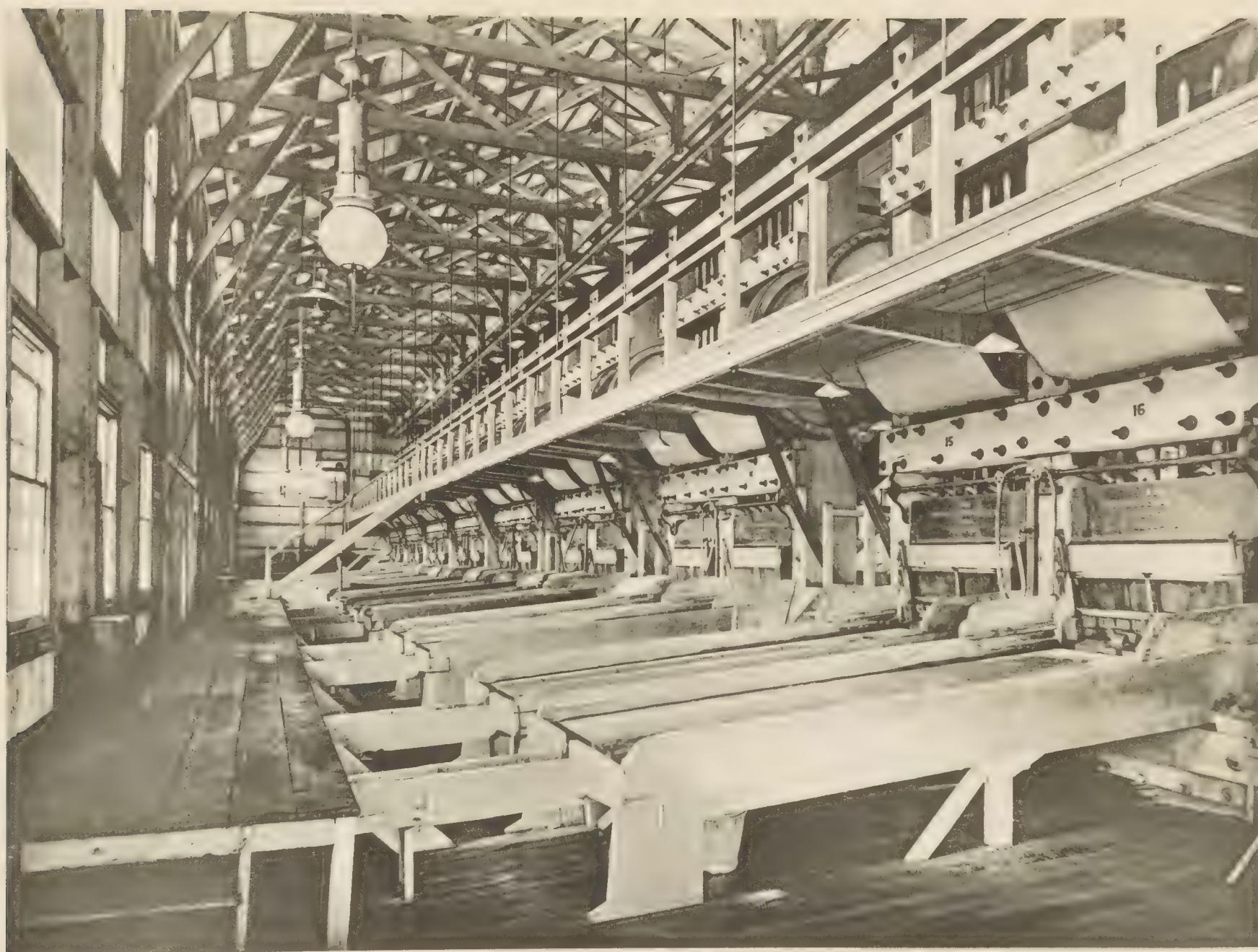


Photo by Simpson Bros.

Johannesburg.

INTERIOR CITY & SUBURBAN BATTERY.



Photo by Simpson Bros.,

Johannesburg.

WEMMER GOLD MINING COMPANY'S HEAD GEAR.



Photo by Simpson Bros.,

Johannesburg.

BANK OF AFRICA—COMMISSIONER STREET.



Photo by Simpson Bros.,

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THE NATAL BANK—MARKET STREET.



Photo by Simpson Bros.,

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THE AFRICAN BANKING CORPORATION, LIMITED.

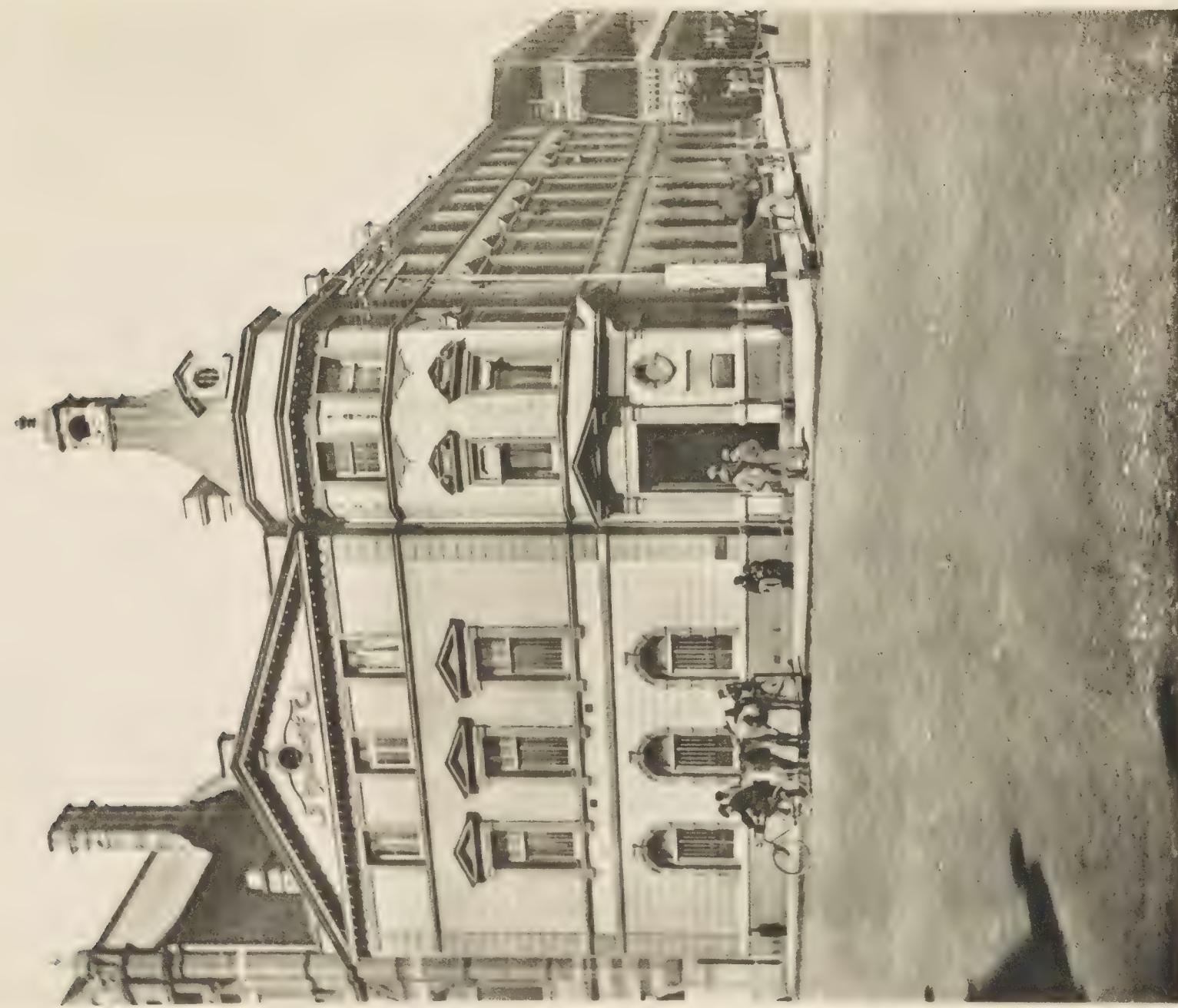
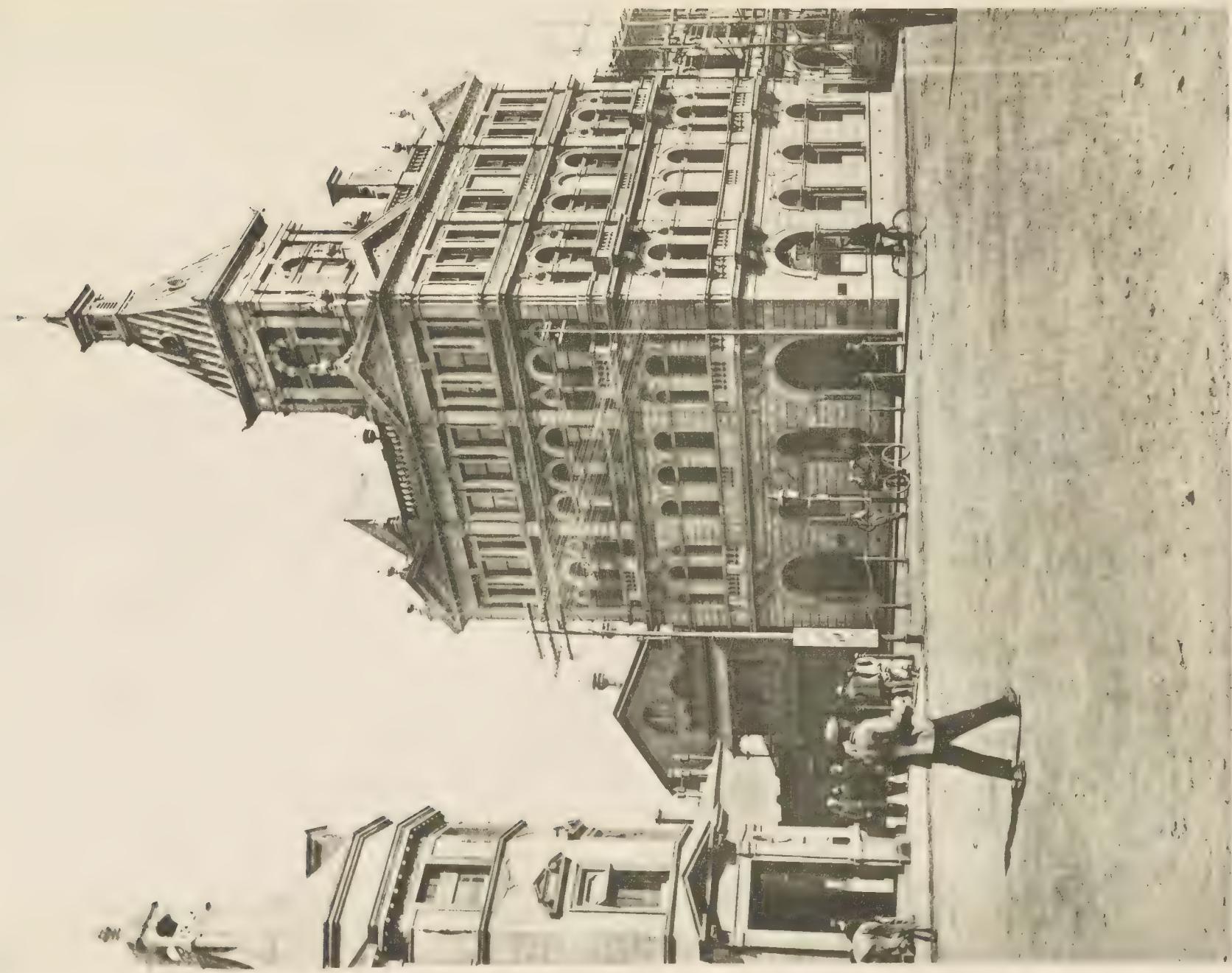


Photo by Simpson Bros.,

THE NATIONAL BANK.

Johannesburg.



Johannesburg.

ROBINSON'S BANK—MARKET STREET.

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Johannesburg.

POST OFFICE.



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THE STOCK EXCHANGE—COMMISSIONER STREET.



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GOLD FIELDS CONSOLIDATED BUILDINGS.



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ÆGIS BUILDINGS—LOVEDAY STREET.



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GRAND NATIONAL HOTEL.



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THE ARCADE.



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THE FOUNTAIN—JOUBERT'S PARK.



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THE LAW COURTS.



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COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS.



Johannesburg.

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THE TELEPHONE TOWER.



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THE MARKET BUILDINGS.



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THE CATTLE MARKET.



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THE MORNING MARKET.



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BETWEEN THE CHAINS—SIMMONS STREET.



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JEWISH SYNAGOGUE.



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JEPPE'S MEMORIAL—JEPPE'S TOWN.



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THE CEMETERY.



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ZIMAN'S BUILDINGS.



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COMMISSIONER STREET—LOOKING WEST.



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PRITCHARD STREET—LOOKING WEST.



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PRITCHARD STREET—LOOKING EAST.



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PRITCHARD STREET—LOOKING WEST.



Johannesburg.

Photo by Simpson Bros.

RISSIK STREET—LOOKING SOUTH FROM RAILWAY CROSSING.



Photo by Simpson Bros.,

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RISSIK STREET—LOOKING SOUTH.

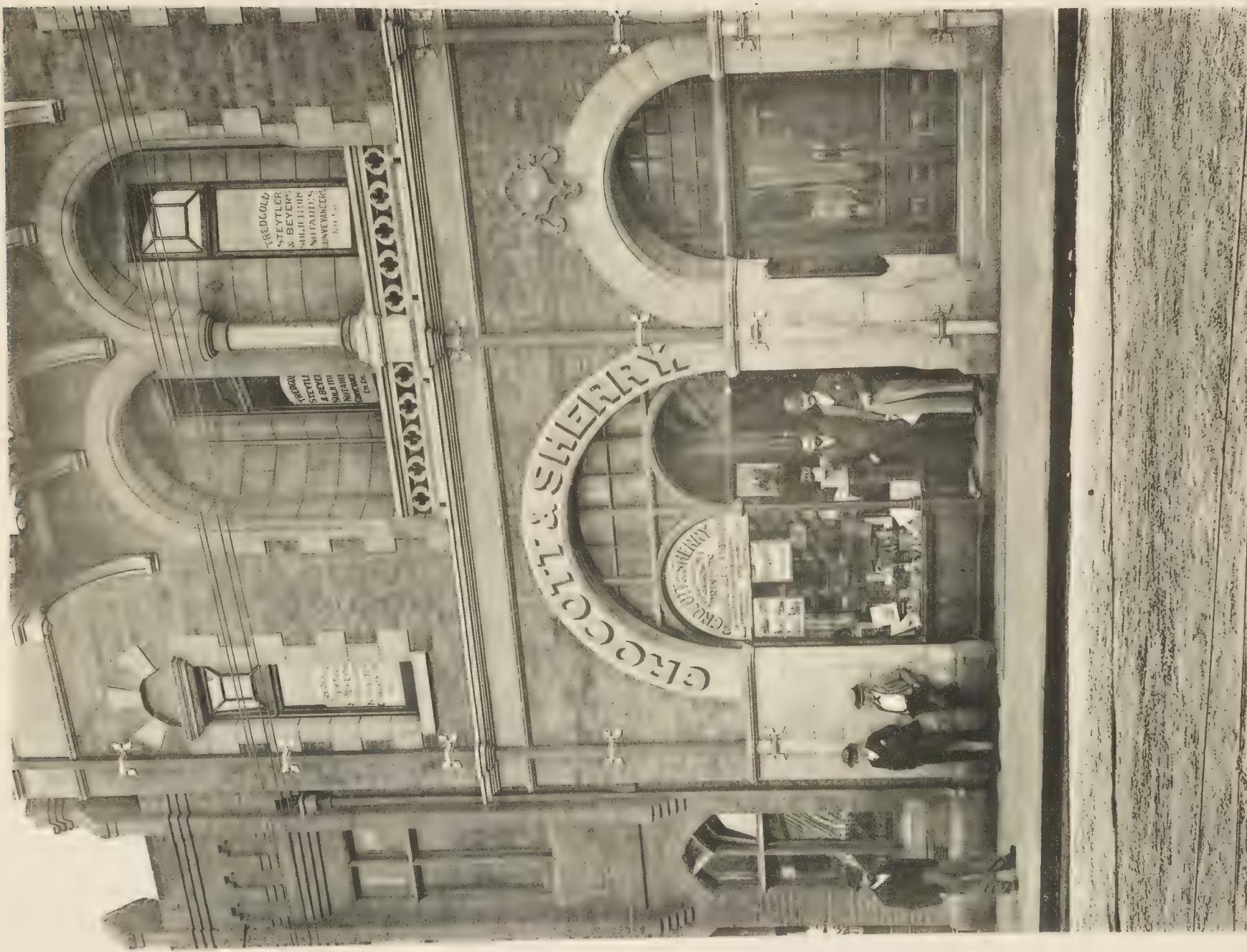
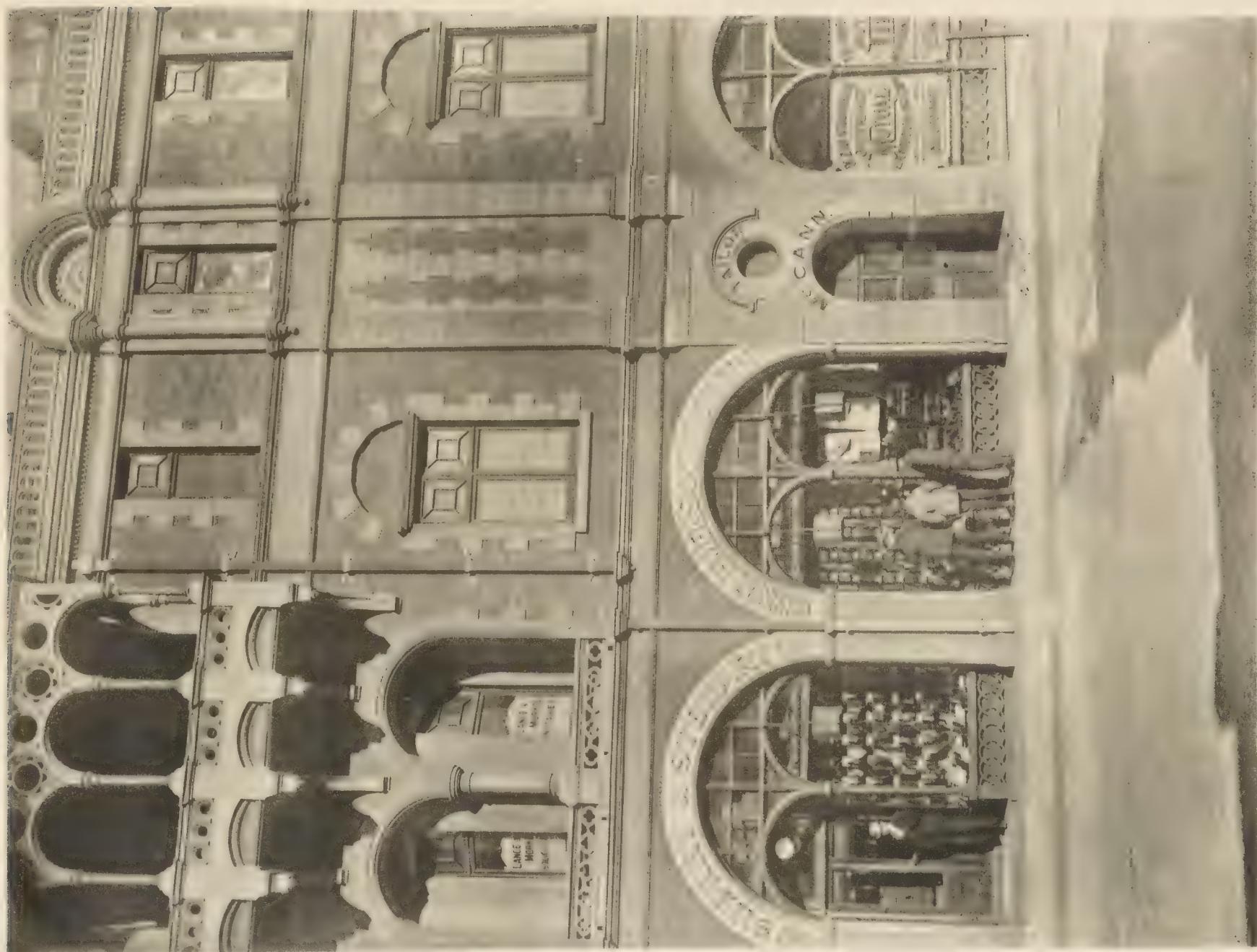


Photo by Simpson Bros.

GROCOTT & SHERRY'S—MUTUAL BUILDINGS, COMMISSIONER STREET.

Johannesburg.



Johannesburg.

SHERRY & STEWART'S—MUTUAL BUILDINGS.

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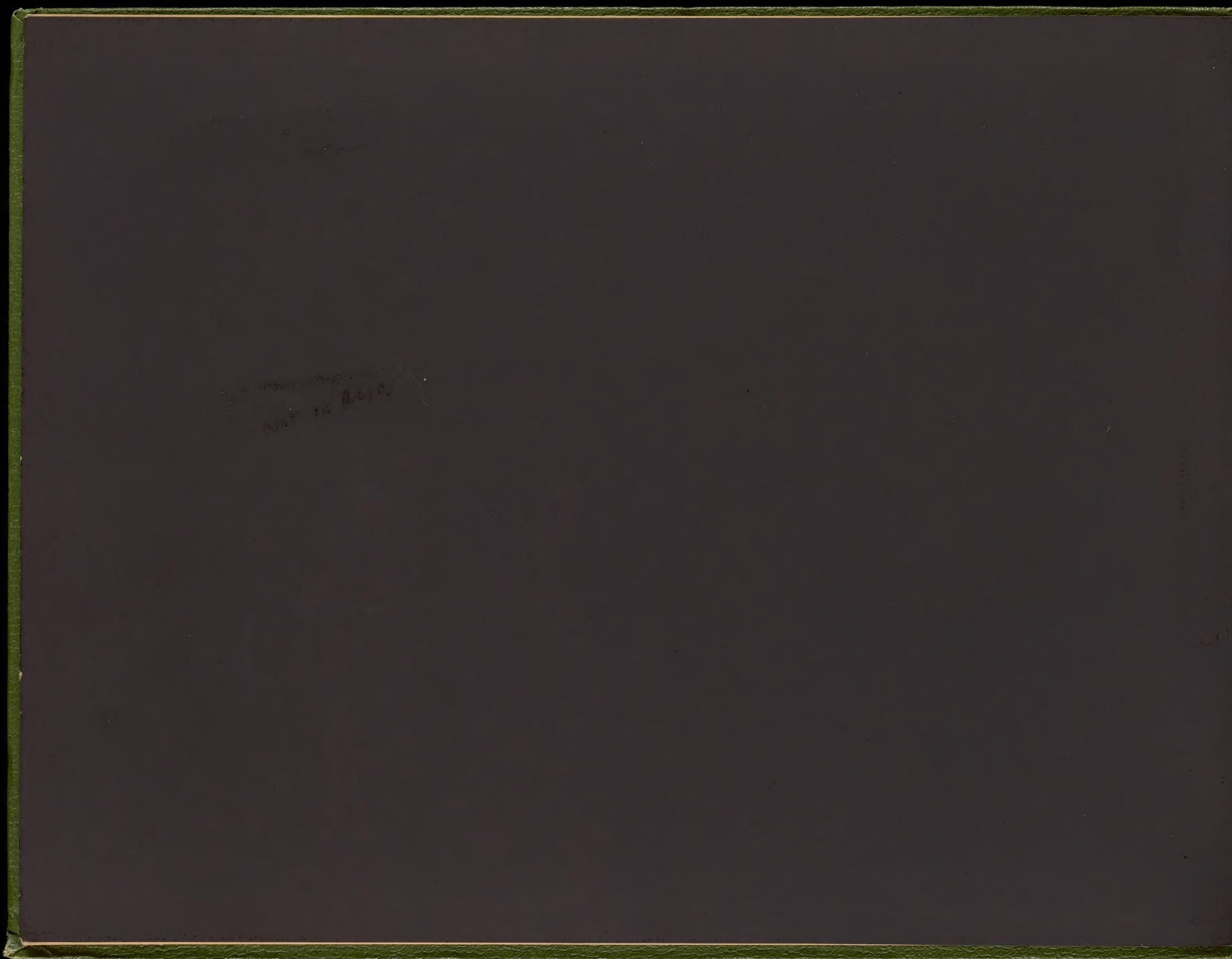
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